

SEENV #5577

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON COOPERATION  
IN THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION IN THE ARCTIC

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of  
the United States of America, (hereinafter referred to as the  
Parties)

Recognizing the sensitivity of the Arctic environment and our  
mutual commitment to protect the Arctic environment and to  
promote the social and economic interests of local, especially  
indigenous populations, including their traditional way of  
life;

Concerned over the potential threats posed by contaminants in  
the Arctic region, in particular to the health of the  
indigenous and local populations of the region as well as to  
its flora and fauna;

Convinced that cooperation and sharing of experience between  
the Parties will contribute to understanding and effective  
response to any such threat both on a national basis and  
within broader international efforts to protect the Arctic  
environment;

Desiring to build upon the results of the Russian-American  
Summit held in Vancouver, April 3-4, 1993;

Noting the particular importance of relevant provisions of  
Part XII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the  
Sea(1982); the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention  
of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of  
1972 (the London Convention of 1972); and the provisions of  
the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy(1991);

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall cooperate in the prevention, reduction and  
control of pollution in the Arctic marine and terrestrial  
environment resulting from the accidental or intentional  
introduction of contaminants into that environment.

To this end the Parties shall cooperate in research,  
monitoring, assessment and other activities, bilaterally and  
in the appropriate multilateral fora.

## Article 2

1. The Parties shall cooperate in the conduct of scientific research, monitoring, and assessment activities to determine the potential impacts of contaminants in the Arctic environment, including, inter alia:

- a. the pathways by which such contaminants reach and are dispersed within the Arctic environment;
- b. the effects of such contaminants, including rates of bio-accumulation, upon Arctic flora and fauna, including fish populations; and
- c. the effects of such contaminants upon human health in the Arctic environment, especially upon local and indigenous populations.

2. The Parties further shall cooperate in the monitoring and assessment of levels of hazardous contamination in the Arctic environment, including, inter alia:

- a. provision and full exchange of data and information on the effects of disposal and release of such contaminants introduced directly or indirectly into the Arctic environment;
- b. determination of the level, chemical composition, and patterns of such contamination caused by releases from sites at which materials have been stored, processed or disposed; and
- c. determination of the amount, concentrations and dynamics of transport of such contaminants introduced, directly or indirectly, into the marine zone, including through rivers and other watercourses, natural or artificial, and via ice transport and ice rafted sediment.

3. The Parties shall consult with regard to technical solutions for the elimination of radioactive and other types of contamination impacts.

4. The Parties shall cooperate in the conduct of joint scientific research to predict ecological impacts of the existing disposals of radioactive waste and consult with regard to technical solutions for the elimination of disposals in places where ecological safety is not insured.

5. Cooperation between the Parties in scientific research



and monitoring referred to in this Article shall take place bilaterally, and within the appropriate international, including regional, mechanisms, in particular the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and the International Arctic Seas Assessment Program of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

### Article 3

1. Each Party shall facilitate access for cooperative activities under Article 2 to areas that are under its jurisdiction in accordance with international law and that are or are believed to be contaminated, under such reasonable conditions as it may establish.

2. The Parties shall ensure that the data and information resulting from such research and monitoring are exchanged and made freely available to both Parties.

### Article 4

The Parties shall promote the development of specific measures to give effect to this Agreement, including:

a. programs for the exchange of scientists, other experts and students in the field of Arctic contamination;

b. organization of seminars and meetings of experts;

c. organization of joint research activities, including marine scientific research cruises;

d. development of GIS, data bases and inventories on Arctic environmental data; and

e. cooperation in emergency preparedness exercises and prompt exchange of information concerning major accidental releases of contaminants into the Arctic environment.

f. cooperation in the exchange of information on relevant technologies and assessment methodologies applicable to the subject-matter of this Agreement.

g. cooperation in the exchange of information on relevant environmental protection legislation and regulations.

#### Article 5

Activities under this Agreement, including specific projects and programs, shall be carried out by responsible agencies of each Party in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Agreement Between the Governments of the Russian Federation and the United States on Cooperation in Ocean Studies under the overall coordination of the United States-Russian Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation and under any other coordinating body as may be agreed by the Parties.

#### Article 6

1. All activities taken pursuant to this Agreement shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations, and procedures in both countries and shall be subject to the availability of funds and personnel.

2. Scientific and technological information resulting from cooperation under this Agreement, other than information which is not disclosed for national security, commercial or industrial reasons, shall be made freely available, unless otherwise agreed.

3. The treatment of intellectual property created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be governed by Annex II of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Science and Technology Cooperation, 1993.

#### Article 7

The Parties shall consult over any differences as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement.

## Article 8

1 This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and remain in force for a period of five years, and may be extended for additional five year periods upon written agreement of the Parties.

2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement six months following the date of written notification to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at \_\_\_\_\_, in duplicate,  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1994, in the  
Russian and English languages, each text being equally  
authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

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